



2007 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise

Calendar the date: This year, the 2007 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise will be held on: **Thursday, October 25, 2007**

The exercise **scenario** will be based on a community outbreak of pneumonic plague (*Yersinia pestis*). Targeted participants include hospitals, local health departments (LHDs), and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs). The exercise is scalable to meet local objectives and enables hospitals to meet the Joint Commission standards.

Key focus areas of the exercise include:

- Activation of surge capacity plans, procedures and systems
- Activation of the ICS structure for command and control
- Security of the facility and assets
- Resource management and allocation of scarce resources
- Management of public information and risk communications
- Integration of hospitals, public health, healthcare providers and EMS

The exercise will begin at 0500 hours and continue until 1700 hours. This will allow hospitals the option of conducting their exercise over all three shifts. As an alternative, participants may elect to conduct their exercise at any time during those hours to meet the needs of the facility/organization.

The 2007 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster **Exercise Guidebook** will be posted to the EMSA Website after September 3, 2007. Participants should plan on submitting their "Intent to Participate" forms no later than September 28, 2007 to the persons designated in the Exercise Guidebook, when released.

A **2007 Exercise Planning Workgroup** has been convened by the California Department of Public Health, the Emergency Medical Services Authority and the California Hospital Association with hospital, clinic, EMS and public health representatives. Their objective was to jointly plan and implement the 2007 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise.

The plague scenario will not include decontamination components. Participants may consider the use of volunteer "victims" to enhance the realism of a functional exercise to simulate an influx of surge of patients.

NOTE: This year, Golden Guardian, the Statewide Terrorism Exercise, will be held on November 14, 2007 in locations across California. To insure thorough evaluation of healthcare capability and to avoid potential conflicts with this exercise, the 2007 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise was moved to late October.